FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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We celebrated Park serve day on Sunday, April 24, at Upton State Forest. Twenty volunteers from DCR, Friends of Upton State Forest, Bay State Trail Riders Association, and local folks turned out to help us spruce up the Forest. Volunteers planted flowers around the flagpole, raked leaves around the CCC headquarters, trimmed trails at the Entrance, Loop, Middle, Swamp and Hopkinton Springs trails and picked up trash on Southboro road. Park Serve Day happened to be in conjunction with Upton Clean-Up week providing the opportunity to contribute to the town wide clean-up as well. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this a success!!

The work is done – enjoying pizza lunch compliments of FUSF

Before and After
Design by Ellen Arnold

Thanks to all our volunteers – old, young and everyone in between!

The President's Message

Upton is on track to preserve land that will benefit the trail network through Upton State Forest and Upton open space land. Upton voted at its May 5 Town Meeting to purchase 94 acres at the southerly intersection of Upton's Mechanic and Fowler Streets for conservation purposes, and the purchase will close later this year. The land will connect to Upton State Forest through a public trail on the Robertson Family Conservation Restriction Area (a bridge over Warren Brook, which the town is working on, is needed to complete the trail.) The land also abuts Upton's Stefans Farm Open Space, which provides the opportunity to connect to the trails on Upton State Forest through the trails on Upton's Warren Brook Watershed and Whitney Conservation Areas. There is about a half-mile of privately-owned forest land that separates the Stefans Farm Open Space from the Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area over which trail easements or other arrangements will need to be made to connect the Stefans Farm Open Space and the Warren Book Watershed Conservation Area. The trails in the Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area connect to Upton State Forest's Rabbit Run tail through the trail over what was known as Sweetwillliam Farm (now the Whitney Conservation Areas and Five Fork Farms.) As with all conservation land purchases, the Mechanic Street land purchase was a cooperative effort. In this case, it includes financial and technical support by the Sudbury Valley Trustees, private donations from residents, the Protect Upton community group's effort to publicize the opportunity, and the vote at Town Meeting to fund the purchase with Community Preservation Funds. It also builds on all the work that was done over the years to create and maintain the trails (and the opportunity to create the trails by preserving the land) on Stefans Farm Open Space, Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area, Whitney Conservation Area, Robertson Family Conservation Restriction Area, Five Fork Farm Conservation Restriction Area, and the Upton State Forest.

In Remembrance

Joan Varney donated to FUSF in memory of her father, **Joseph W. Gorman, Sr**. Joe was a local enlisted man (LEM) at Upton State Forest serving as an educator. He coached the soccer team that won the district championship and was listed as a contributor to the camp newsletter, ***Mandaze.*** He had a family with five children and lived at home in Upton. Thanks to his contributions we have a beautiful state forest to enjoy.

Joseph W. Gorman Sr.

FUSF Board of Directors

Bill Taylor, President
Joyce Sandvik, Vice President
Open, Secretary
Chris Scott, Treasurer
Agnita Knott, Membership
Members-at-Large

- Alisa Bernat
- Suzanne Nicholas

Help Wanted

We're still looking for a secretary to join the FUSF board of directors. If you'd like an opportunity to give back to a good cause, drop us an email at friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

Welcome New Members

Patricia and Christopher Giglio, Upton, MA

An Important Reminder!

May and June is coyote pup season and it is recommended that you leash your dogs when on the trails as the adults and pups may be out exploring in the daytime. Coyotes are protective of their young and will behave aggressively toward dogs (of any size) that get too close. If you see them, it's best to just walk quietly in the opposite direction and let them be.

Did You Know?

Biologists from the Mass Division of Fisheries & Wildlife visited 27 black bear dens this winter to put radio tracking collars on adult female bears to collect data.

They found that:

- Bears spend more time neighborhoods where food like bird seed and garbage is available.
- Bears in suburban areas are larger than bears in forested areas.
- Human food sources are harmful to bears natural diets.

For more info, visit bit.ly/MA-bear-research.

Box Turtle Spotted

Thomas Jango spotted this box turtle in USF at the top of the power lines off Fowler St.

Keep Everyone Safe

Be sure to report suspicious activity to the Upton Police.

Look at What's New at USF

It's easier than ever to dispose of your trash while visiting Upton State Forest. Two new trash bins have been installed – one at the lower parking lot trail head and one near the trail entrance from the CCC headquarters. Thanks DCR!

Summer Solstice Walk with Rev. Daniel Gregoire
June 18 – 10 AM - 1PM

Join us for a walk in Upton State Forest to celebrate midsummer at the Summer Solstice.

This will be a short, non-strenuous walk along trails in the Upton State Forest. The walk will meet in the trailhead at the parking lot, using the address 205 Westboro Rd, Upton, MA. Feel free to bring refreshments to share.

Come reconnect with our community as we mark the vitality of the season of flourishing. Email Rev. Daniel at minister@uusgu.org to register your interest, ask questions or to volunteer.

Be sure to frequent our **Facebook Page** for great nature pics, local info on our environment and announcements of future events.

Board of Directors meetings – 3rd Monday of each month @ 7:00 PM
in the 1st floor conference room at the Upton Town Hall. (via Zoom call during Covid-19)

Watch for future programs and events as our calendar for 2022 unfolds!

Making a Dontation to FUSF?

Some companies will match your donation to a charitable organization. It's worth looking into. *THANK YOU!*

Reminder!
Membership Renewal

Please take a minute to renew your membership or join the Friends of Upton State Forest. Your membership helps us provide this newsletter, sponsor nature related programs and contribute to the ongoing work of maintaining our Upton State Forest trail system. Thank You!

Calendar of Events

June
6/18 – Summer Solstice Walk with Rev. Daniel Gregoire – CCC headquarters 10 AM-1 PM

October
10/01 – BSTRA Wild West Ride – participant parking only at the CCC headquarters 7 AM-3 PM

10/30 – BSTRA Pumpkin Ride – participant parking only at the CCC headquarters
7 AM-3 PM

FUSF Merchandise

FUSF merchandise is temporarily unavailable for sale on our web site. We are in the process of enabling PayPal for ease of purchase. This will be available soon. We do have some limited items available. If interested, send us an email. Thanks for your continued patience as we update our new web site.

FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST
PO BOX 258
UPTON, MA 01568-0258

NEW MEMBERSHIP ----- MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL------ (check one) (Please Print Clearly.) (Information is for Friends of Upton State Forest only.)

Date_____

Name:_____
(For family membership please put two names)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____State_____Zip code_____

Telephone: _____E-mail _____

Would you consider being a member of one of our committees? Please circle your choices.

Auditing	Fund Raising	Newsletter	Refreshments	Trails Committee
Education	Historic Resources	Program	Resource Inventory	
Events	Membership	Publicity	Telephone Committee	

What is your interest? Circle all that apply. (Please use the reverse for comments, or to tell us, if you wish, of other organizations, you belong to that support these interests.)

Bird Watching	Horseback Riding	Orienteering	Snowmobiling
Cross Country Skiing	Hunting	Open Space Preservation	Trail Running
Hiking	Letterboxing/Geocaching	Photography/Art	Wildlife Watching
Historical	Mountain Biking	Snow Shoeing	Other (what?)

Membership Categories: (Circle one)

Individual ----------$25.00
Senior 65+----------$12.50
Student full time with current student id----------$12.50
Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ---------- $37.50

Additional Donation Amount: General Fund* or Special Fund?
Anonymous? Yes--- No--- Memorial or Honorarium?
Name of person being recognized? _____
*If no place is indicated for donation, it will go to the General Fund.

(* Please note: There is a $25.00 charge for returned checks.)

Below this line is for office use only:
Payment: Cash Check # Amount paid: Category: Year Paid:
Cards issued by: Newsletter address entered by: